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SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year  
1954.



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector -

J. E. FANNON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.



Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

1st June 1955.

To the Chairman and Members,  
Sherborne Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

Appendix A to the report contains extracts from the findings of the 1951 Census which may be of interest.

The report shows that the health of the District has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I am indebted to Mr.J.Fannon, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss.P.Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Sartin, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies & Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

*W. J. Fannon*

Medical Officer of Health.



SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 4.

A. Area - 41,481 acres.

Rateable value - £28,194.

Production of a penny rate - £109.17s.11d.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 5,750.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>		Comparative figures	
				(a) Sherborne R.D.C.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	56	37	)Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 16.2		
Legitimate	53	36			
Illegitimate	3	1		17.0	15.2
Illegitimacy Rate per 1,000 live births			= 43.0	43.0	46.0

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = Nil	Nil	24.0
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DEATHS.

Total	32	29	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 10.6	9.85	11.3
Deaths in infants under one year	1	-	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	10.7	25.5

			<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Deaths from	Maternal Causes	-	Nil	Nil
"	" Tuberculosis	-	1	Nil
"	" Cancer of the Lungs	-	2	Nil
"	" Coronary Disease (Angina)	-	3	6
"	" Influenza	-	Nil	3
"	" Pneumonia	-	3	1
"	" Motor vehicle accidents	-	2	1
"	" All other accidents	-	1	Nil
"	" Suicide	-	Nil	1

Comments.

The exceptionally low birth rate recorded in 1953 (10.2) and to which your special attention was drawn in my Report for that year ceases to be of material significance in view of the higher rate for the year 1954 (now under review) which was 16.2 which corresponds with the average for the last six years.



## B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, in the district continued to be provided by the County Council. It has not been possible to develop fully the County Council's Domestic Home Help Service. Otherwise, the services provided have been adequate and no further comment with regard to them is considered necessary.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

## C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district.

### 1. SANITARY STAFF.

J.E.FANNON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Although appointed as full-time Sanitary Inspector, a large proportion of Mr. Fannon's time has been spent throughout the year on the management of the Council's water supplies and undertakings.

Clerical Staff - one clerk (part time).

On the receipt of Ministry Circular 30/54, it was quite apparent that, unaided, Mr. Fannon would not be in a position to carry out the necessary inspections in connection with slum clearance. The Council made an arrangement by which the Housing Manager and Clerk of Works could make himself available to assist Mr. Fannon in these duties.

### 2. WATER SUPPLY.

Since the 1st October the maintenance of the Council's water supplies has been the responsibility of your Sanitary Inspector. The Council (in consultation with the Wincanton Rural District Council) has appointed a full time waterworks manager to be responsible for the maintenance of the whole of the Council's water undertakings as from 1st May 1955.

Rainfall for the year 1954 (recorded by Mr.C.E.Bean of Barton Gardens, Sherborne) = 34.8 inches.

(a) Quantity. As a result of a wet summer, no serious shortages of supply were experienced during the year, but the Council has not yet felt able to accede to all demands for new agricultural supplies.

(b) Quality. The bacteriological quality of some of the supplies still prove unsatisfactory, in particular the Southern Parishes Supply. Chlorination of all the Council's supplies is carried out and regular samples submitted for bacteriological examination and for free chlorine estimation. The details are given on next page.

<u>Council Supplies (Public).</u>	<u>Bacteriological.</u>	<u>Chemical.</u>	<u>Chlorine Estimation.</u>
Bradford Abbas	6	1	6
Beerhackett	1	-	1
Holwell & Bishops Caundle	4	-	4
Leigh	9	1	4
Oborne	12	1	-
Southern Parishes	13	1	13
Trent & Sandford Orcas	15	2	13
Yeovil Borough	1	-	1
<hr/>			
Total -	61	6	42
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<u>Private Supplies.</u>			
Batcombe	1	-	-
Bradford Abbas	3	-	-
Castleton	3	-	1
Nether Compton	4	-	-
Over Compton	2	-	-
Poyntington	8	1	-
Thornford	4	-	-
Trent	4	-	-
Yetminster	1	-	-
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Total -	30	1	1
Grand Total -	91	7	43

(c) New Works and New Connections. Work on the laying of mains for the comprehensive scheme proceeded satisfactorily during the year. The Over Compton reservoir was completed and the Honeycombe reservoir 40% completed.

Rejointing of the Clayhanger - Purse Caundle section of mains was carried out by direct labour.

A new centrifugal pump was installed at Sandford Orcas on the Trent & Sandford Orcas supply.

New Connections. The following new connections to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

(i)	Domestic use	56
(ii)	Agricultural purposes	12
(iii)	Other purposes	Nil



(d) Details of domestic supply.

Parish.	Houses with Public Supply.	Houses with Standpipes.	Houses with supply direct to house.	Popu- lation supplied (estimated).
Batcombe (part)	11	2	9	31
Beerhackett (part)	12	-	12	37
Bradford Abbas (part)	70	-	70	236
Castleton (part)	16	10	6	47
Caundle Bishop	103	20	83	313
Caundle Marsh	23	5	18	97
Caundle Purse	47	5	42	174
Chetnole	66	8	58	244
Clifton Maybank (part)	8	-	8	25
Folke	105	23	82	332
Goathill	10	4	6	49
Haydon	19	3	16	70
Hermitage	13	5	8	33
Hilfield	11	4	7	43
Holnest	39	-	37	111
Holwell	98	5	93	353
Leigh	115	15	100	401
Leweston	1	-	1	20
Lillington	4	-	4	12
Longburton	84	7	77	253
Melbury Bubb (part)	5	-	5	17
North Wootton	9	1	8	32
Oborne	39	-	39	108
Ryme Intrinseca	39	7	32	139
Sandford Orcas	56	3	52	196
Stockwood (part)	6	-	6	24
Trent (part)	28	1	27	101
Yetminster	173	3	170	622
	1210	131	1076	4120

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Bishops Caundle. The connection of private properties to the sewerage scheme in this parish continued during the year.

Bradford Abbas. The sewage disposal works were completed early in the year and the Queens Road and Hamlet Council Houses were connected. The provision of water borne sanitation to private properties along the sewer will be put in hand when the main water becomes available.

Thornford. A section of the village sewer in School Road was re-laid in glazed pipes to abate a nuisance caused by the leakage of the old stone drain.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. A monthly collection of house refuse is made throughout the district. The amount of refuse collected continues to increase as more new houses are completed.

(b) Salvage. There was a slight improvement in demand for all scrap materials during the year. Salvage to the amount of £81.6s.9d was sold during the year compared with £13.13s.4d in the preceding year.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. The emptying of cesspools at Council Housing sites by contract continued satisfactorily. The Council does not undertake the emptying of private cesspools.



## 5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

The wet season with consequent high level of streams and water courses generally had the effect of reducing the number of complaints regarding offensive ditches. Ditches at Trent, Yetminster, Chetnole and Beerhackett were cleared of vegetation to maintain a free flow of water. Arrangements were made for a roadside ditch at Chetnole to be piped for a distance of 150 yards to carry the effluent from the School Lane council houses' cesspool away from the vicinity of dwellings.

## 6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	31
No. of defects found	Nil
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

## 7. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	16
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	26
	<u>32</u>	<u>42</u>

<u>No. of cases in which defects were</u>		
<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>

Sanitary Conveniences - Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-
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No. of outworkers = 62

## 8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

## 9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district which is used by the public on occasion by special permission. The water is from springs and is chlorinated when in use.

## 10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No. of moveable dwellings licensed during the year	7
No. of camping sites licensed in the district	Nil

## 11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Three properties were treated for flea infestation.

## 12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

There have been no complaints of serious infestations of rats in the district.

13. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No. of registered premises	Nil
No. of licensed premises	Nil
No. of inspections carried out in respect of such premises	Nil

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

15. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

Seventeen routine inspections, in liaison with the Dorset County Council, were carried out during the year.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was taken under these Acts during the year.

17. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year	54
No. of inspections made	114

No. of informal notices served	3
No. of informal notices complied with	3
No. of statutory notices served	1
No. of statutory notices complied with	10

No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	Nil
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Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

(a) Demolition Orders made	Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Reconditioning	Nil
(ii) Closure	Nil

Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to the Local Authority	Nil
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	Nil
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No. of houses in the district known to be let in lodgings	Nil
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Total No. of houses in the district	1,840
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## Rural Housing Survey.

	<u>Prior to 1954.</u>		<u>No. of inspections during 1954.</u>	
	<u>Preliminary.</u>	<u>Detailed.</u>	<u>Preliminary.</u>	<u>Detailed.</u>
Category 1	446	38	-	-
" 2	540	25	-	2
" 3	512	72	-	4
" 4	114	108	-	9
" 5	96	105	-	3
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	1708	348	-	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Although the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 30/54 in April called for the resumption of slum clearance as a matter of urgency, the figures above will show that less action was taken last year in this matter than during the preceding year. In 1954 only 54 houses were inspected (114 inspections being made) as against 216 (369) in the previous year. This was principally due to the Sanitary Inspector being engaged on additional duties as Waterworks Manager. Whilst it is hoped that more progress in this respect will be made during 1954, inspections carried out will be rendered useless unless the Council provides (and is permitted to provide) further Council houses to accommodate persons displaced from unfit dwellings.

## Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

No. of applications received for certificates of disrepair	<u>Nil</u>
No. of certificates issued	<u>Nil</u>

The present indications are that property owners are not taking the opportunity presented by this Act to increase the rents of their property and, incidentally, carrying out the essential repairs to enable them to do so.

The amendment of Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936 by the above-mentioned Act, has withdrawn the power of a Local Authority to enforce necessary repairs in any but the worst property.

It follows that unless the landlord is given greater inducement to effect repairs voluntarily, or a Local Authority can again have power to see that property is made 'in all respects fit', a further deterioration of existing property is to be anticipated until its condition becomes so bad that the Local Authority can enforce repairs or demolition.

## Requisitioned Premises etc.

One house was held under requisition at the end of the year. One house on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

## Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority:-

	<u>Temporary</u> <u>Prefab.</u>	<u>Swedish</u> <u>Timber.</u>	<u>Traditional</u> <u>Type.</u>	<u>Other.</u>
During 1954	-	-	41	-
Post-war	-	-	236	-
Pre-war	-	-	110	-
War time (agricultural)	-	-	4	-
			<hr/>	
			350	



It will be noted that 41 new Council houses were completed during the year compared with 55 in the preceding year and that 52 families were re-housed compared with 77 in 1953.

No further schemes for the provision of Council houses in the district were under consideration at the end of the year, although no realistic slum clearance can be carried out unless houses are available for the re-housing of those displaced by such action. There is no likelihood at all of houses for such persons being provided in the district by private enterprise.

#### Improvement Grants (Housing Act 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954).

No. of applications received during the year	17 (24 houses)
No. granted	17 " "
No. refused	Nil
No. pending	Nil

An increasing number of owners have taken advantage of the grants made under the Housing Act 1949 for the improvement of properties. As anticipated in the last Report the upper financial limit to the cost of works was removed (without affecting the maximum amount of grant) and this has encouraged more applications.

Nevertheless, the response to the provisions of the 1954 Act have been disappointing and the indications are that, whilst some of the larger property owners may improve some of their unfit property by means of a grant, the majority of the applicants for grants are owner occupiers who are not applicants for Council accommodation. It would appear, therefore, that whilst the availability of improvement grants may save some unfit houses from demolition, they are not likely to materially effect the need for additional Council house accommodation in the district, particularly accommodation of a type most suitable for old people.

#### Housing Applications.

At the end of the year there were 121 applicants on the Council's waiting list of whom 57 were resident within the district. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 143 and 115 respectively.

#### 18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

##### 1. Milk.

##### Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949	2
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No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949	4
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No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	6
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No. of 'distributors' subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949	6
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## Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	4
Accredited	59
Pasteurised	1
Non-Designated	3

## Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

Informal action only was called for and taken in respect of untreated milk sold which was found, on examination, to be tuberculous.

No practical action was possible in a further instance when a milk supply was suspected to be infected with Brucella Abortis. The only practical control of this human infection contracted from infected milk is by the pasteurisation of all milk sold for human consumption.

## 2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	49
No. being - restaurant kitchens	2
hotel kitchens	1
food factories	2
No. of premises subject to Section 13 inspected during the year	31
No. of inspections - restaurant kitchens	4
hotel kitchens	1
food factories	4
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	13
No. of premises registered in respect of -	
(a) Ice-cream	12
(b) Sausages & prepared meats	1
No. of inspections during the year	13
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test	Nil

## Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. There are two private licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

## Meat Inspection (July to December).

The cessation of meat rationing in July restored to use two slaughterhouses in the district and regular slaughtering is carried on at premises at Yetminster. The slaughterhouse at Leigh has been used so far only for occasional slaughter of pigs.

The time of slaughtering necessitates the working of regular overtime by your Inspector on at least two days every week.



Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>
Number killed	128	108	6	159
Number inspected	128	108	6	159
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	17	6	-	2
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than tuberculosis	13%	5%	-	1%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	4	-	-
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuberculosis	-	3%	-	-

Other Foodstuffs.

Quantities condemned - Nil.

19. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out Nil  
 No. of disinfections Nil

20. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings) 1,316  
 Total No. of informal notices served 8  
 Total No. of informal notices complied with 7  
 Total No. of statutory notices served 1  
 Total No. of statutory notices complied with 1  
 No. of prosecutions Nil

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	3
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	2
Scarlet Fever	2
Sonne Dysentery	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1



There was no undue prevalence of notifiable disease during the year.

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non.Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non.Respiratory.</u>
1	1	1	-

Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON.  
Medical Officer of Health.



A P P E N D I X A - EXTRACTS FROM RESULTS OF THE CENSUS 1951.

P C P U L A T I O N.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Increase + or Decrease - 1931 - 1951.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Percentage. Natural.</u>	<u>Balance.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>	<u>Per cent Population 70 years or over.</u>
Shaftesbury Borough	3,303	+484	+17.2	+0.4	+16.8	+484 added by boundary changes.	10.2
Sherborne U.D.	5,987	-555	-8.5	+1.0	-9.5	Decrease due to census in 1951 taking place during school holidays.	9.4
Shaftesbury R.D.	9,099	+460	+5.3	+2.5	+2.8	-452 loss due to boundary changes.	8.8
Sturminster R.D.	9,304	+816	+9.6	+1.6	+8.0	+562 added by boundary changes.	9.9
Sherborne R.D.	6,119	+736	+13.7	+7.8	+5.9	+322 added by boundary changes.	7.3
DORSET	291,323	+51,971	+21.7	+6.2	+15.5		8.6

H O U S I N G.

	<u>Persons per room.</u>	<u>Piped water into house. Per cent having none or sharing.</u>	<u>Cooking stove. Per cent having none or sharing.</u>	<u>Kitchen sink. Per cent having none or sharing.</u>	<u>Water Closet. Per cent having none or sharing.</u>	<u>Fixed Bath. Per cent having none or sharing.</u>	<u>Per cent having all five facilities.</u>
Shaftesbury Borough	0.64	18	5	14	13	39	57
Sherborne U.D.	0.65	13	2	9	11	40	57
Shaftesbury R.D.	0.65	20	6	19	39	48	45
Sturminster R.D.	0.62	18	6	15	34	41	52
Sherborne R.D.	0.65	24	4	20	55	55	38
DORSET COUNTY	0.67	22	7	17	27	41	54
ENGLAND & WALES		17	7	13	21	45	



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